



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

October 26, 2015

Mr. Pablo Arroyave
Deputy Regional Director
Bureau of Reclamation
South-Central California Area Office
1243 N Street
Fresno, California 93721

Subject: North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program Final Environmental Impact Statement;
Stanislaus County, California [CEQ# 20150011]

Dear Mr. Arroyave:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program. Our review and comments are pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA reviewed the Draft EIS and provided comments to the Bureau of Reclamation in a letter dated March 10, 2015. We rated the Draft EIS as *Environmental Concerns – Insufficient Information* (EC-2) primarily due to our concerns about the potential impacts that may result from further reducing flow in the San Joaquin River, potential impacts to waters of the U.S., and unexplored additional opportunities to reduce air quality impacts. We appreciate the additional information in Reclamation's *Response to Comments* that addresses our comments regarding flows and water quality, the status of the NPDES permits, and impacts to waters of the U.S. We also appreciate that Reclamation has incorporated into the Final EIS some of our suggested methods for further reducing air emissions. Based on our review of the Final EIS, EPA has no objections to the proposed project.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on this Final EIS. When the Record of Decision becomes available, please send a copy to the address above (Mail Code: ENF 4-2). Should you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 972-3521, or contact Jean Prijatel, the lead reviewer for the project. Jean can be reached at (415) 947-4167 or prijatel.jean@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kathleen Martyn Goforth".

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Section